JACKMAN FLATS PROVINCIAL PARK

PURPOSE STATEMENT AND ZONING PLAN

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Approved by:

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JACKMAN FLATS PROVINCIAL PARK

Jackman Flats Park is located in the flat valley bottom of the Rocky Mountain Trench, approximately 10 km north of Valemount on Highway #5.

The park is comprised of 615 ha of shifting sand structures and unique vegetation communities. The park falls within the Upper Fraser Trench (UFT) Ecosection and is in the xeric (dry) site series of the sub-boreal spruce (SBS dh).

The area was originally identified as deserving of protected area status by the Ministry of Environment in 1977 due to its sand dune features. At that time, an application for ecological reserve status was made by the Ministry of Environment (Ecological Reserve Proposal 282, 1977), which was denied due to recreational activity in the area. In 1997, the Robson Valley Land and Resource Management Plan (LRMP) supported protection of the area as a provincial park.

Primary Role
Protection of shifting sand dunes and associated unique vegetation communities. The park contains significant conservation value due to the existence of six very different plant communities, four of which are found infrequently in other areas, and two of which are not found elsewhere.

Secondary Role
The open, undulating terrain of the sand dunes makes Jackman Flats ideal for hiking and cross-country skiing.

Tertiary Role
Jackman Flats provides unique opportunities for outdoor education related to sand dune ecology and unique vegetation assemblages and local community involvement.

Known Management Issues	**Response**
Illegal resource removal (tree harvesting and mushroom picking)	Boundary marking and signing Park Watch program Profile park in local publications
Illegal ATV use	Boundary marking, signing and fencing Park Watch program Profile park in local publications
Manage for red-listed species - Stereocaulon	Monitor stereocaulon population Consider prescribed burn
Forest health	Monitor and assess mountain pine beetle on an annual basis
Invasive species	Monitor highway and railway corridors for species introduction

Local community involvement	Tete Jaune Community Club has shown a long time volunteer commitment to the area. Efforts to get them involved in Park Watch should be extended.
Forest interface management	Reduce ladder fuels buildup along the west side of the park.

Zoning

The majority of Jackman Flats Park is zoned Special Feature (approximately 601 ha or 98%) to stress the significance of the dunes and their sensitivity to disturbance. However, the parking lot and associated facilities are zoned Intensive Recreation (approximately 14 ha or 2% of the park).

CONSERVATION

Representation		
• ecosection		Upper Fraser Trench (UFT). 7.24% of this ecosection is protected; Jackman Flats makes a minor contribution (3.42%)
• biogeoclimatic subzone/variant	X	SBSdh1 – only 1.67% of this subzone/variant is protected. Jackman Flats is the most significant contributor to the representation of this subzone/variant, accounting for more than one-half (57.6%) of the total representation
Special Feature	X	Shifting sand dunes and unique plant communities.
Rare/Endangered Values	X	Red-listed Stereocaulon condensatum
Scientific/Research Opportunities	X	Monitoring Stereocaulon population

RECREATION

Representation:		
• backcountry		
• destination		
• travel corridor	X	Provides ideal opportunity for highway travelers to take a 30 minute walk through the dunes
• local recreation	X	Popular cross-country skiing and walking area for local residents
Special Opportunities		
Education/Interpretation Opportunities	X	Very high opportunities because of easy accessibility and significance of the ecological features

CULTURAL HERITAGE

Representation		Unknown
Special Feature		

OTHER MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

Other Designations	X	Previously an Ecological Reserve proposal (ERP #282)

Relationship to Other PAs	X	Established as part of the Robson Valley LRMP. Other protected areas nearby include Mount Robson, Mount Terry Fox, Holliday Creek Arch, Upper and Lower Raush, Foster Arm, West Twin and Sunbeam Creek.
Co-operative Management Arrangements		
Partnerships	X	Tete Jaune Community Club
Vulnerability	X	Very vulnerable to motorized (ATV and bike) disturbance. The Conservation Risk Assessment Process identified 3 risk factors (the shape, the size of the park, and terrestrial ecosystem replication) for the park and rated them as moderately significant. Six stressors/threats were identified for the park: motorized recreation, non-motorized recreation, petrochemical spill/potential, gathering and urbanization were all rated as highly significant; while transport/utility corridor was rated as moderately significant.
Relationship to Other Strategies	X	Established with full support of the Robson Valley LRMP.

Area: 615 ha

Date of establishment: June 29, 2000

Zoning Map - Jackman Flats Provincial Park

Intensive Recreation

Special Feature

Protected Area Boundary